 Emerging Issues / Other Matters: EWIPA and Incendiaries

Chair,

As a High Contracting Party to the CCW and party to all of its protocols, Australia recognises the intent of the CCW to protect civilians and combatants, in situations of armed conflict, from unnecessary suffering and from indiscriminate targeting. It is for this reason that all of us as States Parties to the CCW, have agreed to the prohibition on the use of weapons which are excessively injurious and have indiscriminate effects.

Chair,

Australia considers robust targeting processes, which strictly adhere to existing international humanitarian law to be the appropriate way of addressing the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. In accordance with international law, we actively seek to minimise the adverse effects of armed conflict on civilians and to limit damage to civilian infrastructure in accordance with the requirements of distinction, discrimination, precautions in attack and proportionality. We encourage States to develop and implement comprehensive targeting processes that apply these principles and take into account the possible secondary and tertiary effects of any strike. Compliance with international humanitarian law will go a long way to addressing concerns raised by the international community about the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) and the injurious weapons regulated by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols.